

Serial No.: 09/709,045
Filed: November 10, 2000
AMENDMENT

On page 3, line 15, delete both references to "tissue" and replace with "tumor" as shown on the accompanying clean copy of page 3 as amended.

In the Claims

1. (amended) A method for [inducing an immune response against] reducing the amount of transformed, infected or diseased tissue in a patient comprising contacting the blood of a patient in need thereof with an effective amount of [a molecule] antibodies binding to soluble cytokine receptor molecules, wherein the cytokine receptor is selected from the group consisting of [GM-CSF, erythropoietin, thrombopoietin, G-CSF, M-CSF and SCF] soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor-1 ("sTNFR-1") and soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor-2 ("sTNFR-2") wherein binding of the [molecule] antibodies prevents the soluble cytokine receptor from binding to the cytokine, until the transformed, infected, or diseased tissue is reduced in amount compared to the amount present at the time the treatment is initiated.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is a solid tumor.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the disease is a viral or parasitic disease causing immunosuppression.

✓ Please cancel claim 4.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising treating the tissue with an agent selected from the group consisting of anti-angiogenic compounds, procoagulant compounds, cytokines, chemotherapeutic agents, and radiation.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising selectively removing soluble cytokine receptor molecules.

✓ Please cancel claim 7.

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8. (amended) The method of claim [7] 1 wherein the cytokine receptor molecules are removed by binding to the cytokine or to an antibody or antibody fragment immunoreactive with the cytokine receptor molecules.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the cytokine or antibody or antibody fragments are immobilized in a filter or column through which the patient's blood or plasma is circulated prior to being returned to the patient.
10. (amended) The method of claim [4] 1 wherein the antibody is humanized.
11. (twice amended) The method of claim 1 comprising contacting the blood or components thereof with [molecules binding to soluble cytokine receptor molecules, wherein the cytokine is selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, erythropoietin, thrombopoietin, G-CSF, M-CSF and SCF, wherein binding of the molecule prevents the soluble cytokine receptor from binding to the cytokine, in an amount effective to reduce the amount of transformed, infected, or diseased tissue, wherein the molecules are in a pharmaceutically acceptable, endotoxin free carrier or] antibodies or antibody fragments immobilized in a sterile endotoxin free extracorporeal device.

Please add new claims 17-22.

17. A method of enhancing an immune response in a patient comprising:
- obtaining whole blood from the patient;
 - separating out the plasma;
 - contacting the plasma with antibody specifically binding to a targeted immune system inhibitor;
 - removing the inhibitor bound to the antibody from the plasma ; and